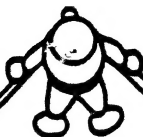


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MATWATCH

MARCH 6-12

213 PINE HILLS AVE. AUBURN, AL. 36830 (205)826-7522

VOL. 1, NO. 37

STEVE'S SIDELIGHTS By Steve Beverly

BILLY'S DILEMMA

Just short of a year ago, we were wondering if Eddie Gilbert was making the career fumble of a lifetime by taking on the task as booker of a dying Continental wrestling promotion.

Inside THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES, you'll read details on the newest candidate to take on the challenge of the CNF and, frankly, since someone has to do the job, I'm glad Bill Dundee will.

In many ways, the CNF represents a stubbornness of will amongst the few remaining non-national promotions. But I sadly feel Dundee is going to find a CNF in worse shape overall than Gilbert moved in for that "summer to remember" last April. Just what are Dundee's dilemmas?:

TALENT: Last year, Gilbert assumed a stale talent base from the Ron Fuller years. He brought a freshness with his new D.I., Willie B. Hert and refocused Lord Humongous characters, and gave Austin Idol a new push, not to mention the star quality of Mr. G and Paul E. Dangerously. Gilbert's successor, Bob Armstrong, reverted back to the old Armstrong family base and Fuller-era talent. Result: dreadfully declining houses.

Dundee inherits one of the biggest names in the entire sport in Terry Gordy. But Gordy hasn't a quality heel to feud with besides Prichard, who's been sorely misused since winning the CNF belt in October and should be working out of Atlanta. Plus, only a miracle is going to keep Gordy out of rejoining Michael Hayes in the NWA by summer. With better direction, Doug Furnas may be a coming star but he's been locked into so-so tag situations and even a mixed midget match.

I'm convinced Tony Anthony has plenty of life---in another circuit---but Jerry Stubbs and even Danny Davis are as dry as clothes in a Kenmore. However, Dundee may find it harder to attract fresh talent than did Gilbert because I'm not convinced the CNF will pony up the money to attract what little quality performers are left on the independent circuits. But the territory needs as much of a talent facelift as it did when Eddie arrived. I mean, when you've got Dale Veasey as half of one of your featured tag teams???

TELEVISION: Charlie Platt needs a strong, permanent color commentator to give consistency to this show. Plus, I thought it was a major mistake for the CNF to go back to the arena stages with that old set because it was a throwback to the old, tired days of Continental.

This was a much better show when the announcers were right at ringside when heavy action developed, as was the case last summer.

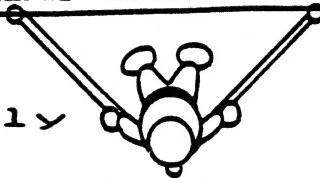
This program also needs angles which tell a story. For six months now, angles on the CNF have consisted of run-ins and saves, usually in Anthony & Stubbs matches which are all too predictable. Angles need a sense of the unexpected to lure an audience and I get the feeling I've seen every finish or run-in dozens of times in the CNF of today. Plus, the performers need a personality. Not even Gordy has been showcased on TV in the fashion which has made him an international star.

PROMOTION: It's time to lay to rest such ideas as a "mink coat" tournament where only the most naive believe anyone but a plant will win the "prize." Plus, in key markets such as Chattanooga, a consistent time period for TV has to be found. Viewers have grown angry in that market over the bouncing ball scheduling of CNF. And something has to be done to stop the increasing numbers of card changes and no-shows from what TV plugs. Letters to MATWATCH reflect a discontent over the instability of announced shows.

What can Bill Dundee bring to the picture? Says one insider: "The CNF will have much better finishes because Dundee is one of the best finish men in the business." Dundee brings a track record of bringing excitement to his matches, with quality selling, when he has previously booked. Plus, I believe Dundee is smart enough to know that unless he can't attract any stronger personalities, it is a dangerous tack to build the territory around himself.

Can he work the Eddie Gilbert magic of the summer of '88? That's doubtful because market conditions have changed dramatically even in that short aftermath. But I believe Dundee will bring a respectable product back to the Alabama-Tennessee circuit.

Whether that's enough is a hazardous guess. When David Woods bought the CNF, he told a colleague the promotion was potentially more profitable than his Montgomery, Ala., TV station. One year later, I'm glad David still relies on WCOV-TV for his primary income.



* * * THIS WEEK'S * * *
HEADLINES

DUNDEE TAKES OVER AS CWF
BOOKER MARCH 12

MONTGOMERY, Ala. - Veteran wrestler Bill Dundee, who has campaigned most of his recent career in the CWA circuit, has signed with the Continental Wrestling Federation as booker. The appointment is effective March 12.

Dundee will succeed a booking committee headed by CWF road manager Ron West. Former NWA and Georgia booker Ole Anderson had also been under consideration for the post.

A source close to the promotion indicated CWF owner David Woods was impressed with Dundee's honesty. "He didn't make us grand promises of bringing in talent he may not be able to get," the source told MATWATCH. "He did pledge to give us an interesting mix of matches."

Dundee, regarded as one of the best "finish" bookers in the profession, is the fourth CWF booker since Woods bought the promotion in early 1988. Eddie Gilbert, Bob Armstrong and the West committee have previously handled the job.

GEORGIA LEGISLATURE GOES OTHER WAY;
PASSES WRESTLING COMMISSION BILL

ATLANTA - After three years of failure, the Georgia Legislature has passed a bill creating a state wrestling commission to regulate the industry. Rep. Dick Lane, who has advocated stronger regulation of pro wrestling, spearheaded the effort. Georgia Gov. Joe Frank Harris still has not signed the bill.

If Harris does not veto, the commission would go into effect July 1. According to the bill's provisions, virtually every employee of a wrestling promotion---including announcers---would have to be licensed and the commission would take 2% of any promotion's gross revenues, including pay-per-view television receipts.

Two commissioners would be appointed to join the state's three boxing commissioners. A veteran Georgia wrestling insider told MATWATCH, "This one completely slipped by us. It's going to have a significant effect on the smaller promotions that simply can't afford to give up 2% of their revenues." Another source told us one fear of promotions is that former wrestler Jim Wilson, who has fought the industry in court and in legislative hearings in recent years, could be appointed to the commission. Wilson could not be reached for comment.

VENTURA DEFENDS WWF POSITION
ON ESPN SPORTSLOOK

LOS ANGELES - Calling state athletic commissions "stupid," Jesse Ventura came to the defense of World Wrestling Federation testimony that wrestling is "strictly entertainment rather than a bona fide athletic contest."

Appearing on ESPN's Roy Firestone-hosted SPORTSLOOK last Wednesday, Ventura said, "I think the press is missing the whole point. It's a little known fact that in many states, you have 14 guys in suits sitting around the ring doing absolutely nothing."

Ventura told Firestone that in some instances, specific commissioners have been paid kickbacks off the top of the regulation fees the WWF is forced to pay overseeing groups. "The WWF," said Ventura, "is willing to do anything it can and say anything in order to get these ridiculous commissions off their backs." In an oft-repeated response, Ventura invited anyone to step in a ring with him to determine a contest's legitimacy.

CABLE RATINGS RAP (Week of Feb. 25-27)

	Rating	Share
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 2/27)	3.5	5.1
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 2/26)	3.2	8.2
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 2/26)	2.8	5.4
NWA WORLD C.W. (TBS 2/25)	2.8	5.0
WWF 3-HR. REPEAT (USA 2/25)	1.2	3.6
NWA CH. WRESTLING (TBS 2/25)	0.8	5.8

(ANALYSIS: PRIME TIME almost duplicated the numbers from the WWF FACE TO FACE special intended to blunt CHI-TOWN RUMBLE. But the FACE repeat Saturday morning on USA from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. didn't match the average of the old TBS morning show which used to fill part of that time slot. The clips of CHI-TOWN helped WCN back to a 2.8 average, its best in four weeks. NWA MAIN EVENT maintains a 3.0 average for its last five weeks. See COMINGS & GOINGS for details on the TBS a.m. show's future.)

I REMEMBER... Fred Ward

Few people I know fit into the category of "institution," unless it is in their own minds. In the television game, Allen Ludden was an institution on PASS-WORD until his death and all of the show's subsequent incarnations have paled by comparison. Al Schottelkotte was such an institution in television news in Cincinnati for years that many viewers refused to believe anyone else worked in news for the CBS affiliate.

In my hometown of Columbus, Ga., Fred Ward may not produce a weekly wrestling show any more but he is still Mr. Wrestling to the paying customers at the Municipal Auditorium every month. Fred aired a live Saturday show from his local arena for more than 21 years on WRBL and WTVN in Columbus and those weekends and Wednesday nights at the auditorium were a birthright to West Georgia wrestling devotees, one of them being me.

Fred always acted as color commentator on the shows with announcer Jim Carlisle and his tag line is still recited on street corners today: "To all our sick and shut-in friends, we hope you're up and at 'em real, real soon." And Fred meant it. When I was hospitalized in 1979, Fred was one of the first to visit and the card from him and his wife, Frances, had that trademark wish inside.

Wednesdays at the auditorium, rare was the week Fred wouldn't sell out (unlike the half-houses of today) and he worked the crowd like the best church ushers, shaking hands, wishing people well on their birthdays, welcoming newcomers to town.

Every Wednesday night, I'd join a staff videographer and we'd record the finish of one of the top matches of the night with my commentary for use in the last 45 seconds of sports. Fred never failed to compliment me on it, meager though my talents were (after all, I was supposed to be a "serious" newsman), and once told me I had acumen to be a play-by-play man (if I'd had one of those old tapes, I'd have sent it to Jim Herd).

About once a year, a situation would develop so intense between heel managers and Fred that your local promoter would take things into his own hands. I remember while in college, Fred simply had enough of the villainy of J.C. Dykes and the Infernos, so after a Saturday angle, the Wednesday main event pitted Fred against J.C. and I vow to you, the place was hotter than for Mr. Wrestling II vs. Cowboy Bill Watts in the match just prior.

Fred battered the hapless Dykes from post to post that night and a security blanket covered the throng of mill workers and servicemen that evening that Fred, the Sgt. Joe Friday of the evening, could right the horrible wrong and put their house in order.

It's not the same in Columbus without those Wednesday traditions and without those weekly well-wishes for bedridden fans. But when the NWA comes to town, Fred is still there, so something's still proper. Fred Ward has put more people in seats at the Columbus Municipal Auditorium than any entertainment entrepreneur of the last 30 years. In my view, the Fountain City owes my fine friend a small debt of civic gratitude. I only hope one day, we see the name FRED WARD AUDITORIUM on a building he helped build.

BACK ISSUES: Available for \$1 each or \$5.00 for a package of any 4. Check, cash or money order to STEVE BEVERLY, 213 PINE HILLS AVE., AUBURN AL 36830. Please allow up to 6 weeks for processing orders.

PCCW FOLDS: Score it Don Owen 2, Challengers 0. The rival Pacific Coast group taking on Owen in Oregon has folded. The promotion had failed to air TV two of the last three weeks and our info is that the wrestlers and fans showed up last week but were told no more shows.

CWF CHANGES: The Woods group is about to switch Birmingham from its traditional Monday to bimonthly Fridays. Negotiations are also underway to move Dothan's matches from the Farm Center to the more modern Civic Center.

CLASH COUNTDOWN: TBS will air a one-hour preview to its April 2 megashow, COUNTDOWN TO CLASH, March 31 (a Friday) at 10:50 p.m. (EST). Joe Pedicino will produce.

A.M. EVENTS: Until further notice, the 7:05 a.m. slot on TBS Saturdays will be filled by the syndicated version of NWA MAIN EVENT, which will basically be the same as the TBS version on Sundays, only it will be five minutes longer and some weeks have one additional match. NWA officials felt it was wasteful to tape a full hour only going to about 390,000 homes.

VICTORY LAP: Jack Victory is now acting as Paul E. Dangerously's bodyguard, which had been the plan for Dennis Condrey. The latest bits have Dangerously "buying 3 minutes of TBS time" to begin his new DANGER ZONE segments on WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING.

CENTRE STAGE: The first TBS taping in the CENTRE STAGE music hall in downtown Atlanta will be March 29. TBS officials are going to study the situation and if the tapings go well, they could scrub plans to spend \$500,000 to remodel the old Burt Reynolds Dinner Theatre in CNN Center.

CHAMPIONSHIP NEWS?: If the NWA eventually does move into the CNN Center locale, a major acoustical problem will have to be solved. The ring area would be right above the CNN anchor desks and engineers believe the crashing of bodyslams could be heard during the cable service's newscasts without extensive work.

JOE, JOE, JOE: Record mail has come into Atlanta's WVEU since Joe Pedicino announced he'd be leaving his SUPERSTARS OF WRESTLING marathon for his new NWA post March 18. It's a testimony to the following Joe has built in Big A. Reportedly, several prominent Atlanta radio deejays have asked to audition for the co-host role with Boni Blackstone and former NWA stalwart Freddie "Be There" Miller has inquired.

NIGHTLINE: By the time you read this, ABC's NIGHTLINE with Ted Koppel will probably have devoted an edition to the flap over wrestling regulation. Vince McMahon is refusing to appear but reportedly, the NWA's Jack Petrik will be interviewed, along with Georgia Rep. Dick Lane and possibly ex-wrestler Jim Wilson. We'll have a recap next week.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$: CHI-TOWN RUMBLE may have only drawn a \$67,000 live gate but the cable PPV buy-rate will apparently fall between 2.5 and 3%, which would be a major success, compared to expectations. Turner Home Entertainment chief Steve Chamberlain says it will take 60-90 days for final results to be tallied. If those projections hold up, the show will have registered a \$3-3.5 million gross. (NOTE: Titan people have been telling anyone who would listen that the show only pulled a 1%.)

MORE \$\$\$: In addition, the 900 number WRESTLING HOTLINE pulled in \$80,000 worth of business the night of CHI-TOWN alone, about half of which goes to Turner. About 22,000 calls were placed. Plus, a record 500-plus videocassettes were ordered by phone after WCW last Saturday, a high for first-day buys.

OUT K.C. WAY: Our Midwest friend Bruce Grummet is much improved. Bruce reports only 208 turned out for the WWA show Feb. 24, in which Wahoo McDaniel d. Manny Fernandez in a strap match and Mike George/Akio Sato d. Steve Ray/Porkchop Cash.

SNME SKED: This weekend's Saturday night MAIN EVENT features Elizabeth Poffo's answer as to which wrestler she'll accompany to ringside at WM5 (neither Hogan nor Savage). Also on the card: Hogan vs. Bad News Brown, Brutus Beefcake vs. Rick Rude, Blue Blazer Hart vs. Ted DiBiase (who will wear his new \$1 million belt to the ring), Red Rooster vs. Brooklyn Brawler and Rockers vs. Brainbusters.

SPOTLIGHT: Tony Schiavone, sans moustache, has taken over from Vince as host of WWF WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT with Alfred Hayes as sidekick. Perhaps that's the replacement slot Titan was indicating. Even with McMahon's ability to sell angles (and you know how irritating I feel Vince is but I'll give the guy his due in that area), Tony is already the best play-by-play man the WWF has.

FOLLOWING LANCE: Dave Brown has reconsidered and will replace Lance Russell as prime host of CWA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING in Memphis. Check TUBE TALK for details of Lance's finale in Memphis last Saturday. The general manager of WMC wanted to make a major presentation and hold a celebration for Lance on the air but Jerry Jarrett was against the idea. A CWA official says "four or five" names are being considered to do color with Brown, including some heels.

NWA SETUP: Lance will host WORLD WIDE WRESTLING, the syndicated "A" show for the NWA, only---not both main syndie shows as we reported last week. He did his first taping Tuesday night in Columbia SC. Bob Caudle and Kevin Sullivan did NWA PRO in Macon, GA, Monday night.

GOODTIME CHARLIE: The CWF's Charlie Platt is changing his local radio address. This week, he began the morning drive shift on adult contemporary WOOF-FM in Dothan. He's now heard all over central and south AL.

ON REGULATION: The NWA's Jim Herd told me the company officials intend to meet with Georgia Gov. Joe Frank Harris before he signs the commission legislation. Herd says IBS "will abide the law, whatever it is," but concedes the bill could jeopardize NWA cards continuing even in medium-sized cities such as Macon and Columbus.

RANDOM NOTES: A small independent, the ATLANTIC WRESTLING FEDERATION, now has a half-hour show in Chattanooga. Mostly rookies and the show tapes in Ringgold, GA. Nelson Royal's promotion is hurting, TV-wise, as it is into the second run of its second three shows.

IN JAPAN: Bob Backlund will return for a UWF return match against Nobuhiko Takada, after all. Ricky Steamboat has been in Japan fulfilling Ric Flair's NWA title bookings but word has it that a Flair-Steamboat match will climax their week-long stay. Also, Antonio Inoki's latest New Japan angle is to work himself back up from opening-match status after his loss to Riki Choshu.

REINSTATE ERIC: Those were the signs Percy Pringle asked WCW fans to bring to the Sportatorium after Embry's loss to "leave the circuit." Sure enough, the signs were out. Friday night, Jerry Lawler & Gary Young were skedded to meet the Von Erichs.

MOTOWN: Motor City Wrestling held its inaugural card in Saline MI Feb. 26. Superkey d. Canadian Lumberjack, Sasha Sovietka d. Angelika Blue, Ninja Warrior d. Bobcat Blair, Beach Boy #2 d. Byron Costello, White Lightning d. "The Destroyer," and The Patriots d. The Top Gunns in a Michigan tag title elimination match. Dan Curtis is promoting for MCW.

GOING, GOING, GONG: Roddy Piper on the GONG SHOW panel week before last. Expect him for a week on WIN, LOSE, OR DRAW shortly.

AWA IN PITT: John Lanigan reports 3,510 paid in Pittsburgh for Sgt. Slaughter DQ over Larry Zbyszko; Wahoo d. Manny Fernandez by countout; Greg Gagne d. Tommy Rich; Badd Co. d. Ken Patera/Terry Gibbs; Wendi Richter d. Olympia Hightower; Johnny Valiant d. Dante DeNucci; Shane Douglas d. R.C. Anderson. AWA to tape TV here in May.

PINFALL PROFILE: HOW SYNDICATION WORKS

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In answer to many reader requests to detail how programs, such as wrestling shows, are bought and sold in TV syndication, MATWATCH will spend the next three issues dealing with how your favorite shows are distributed and scheduled.)

Part I: The 1950s to Today

After pro wrestling left network television in 1955, the sport became strictly a local/regional enterprise, as did its means of distribution to TV stations. In the years before megabuck contracts to ring stars, local wrestling programs were among the cheapest shows for a station to produce. In most locales, the promoter provided the ring talent and---at times---the announcer, if the program emcee was not employed by the station. The local station provided a production crew and the air time for the usually live shows. The promoter received a conduit to hawk his weekly soap opera and the station gained an identity as "the wrestling station," usually meaning a large audience, and kept 100% of the revenues from advertising.

The advent of videotape in 1956 didn't spread to many local stations until the early 1960s. Accordingly, the few shows distributed outside of their markets (in New York, Chicago and Washington, predominantly) were on film and often delayed one to two months in airing.

Gordon Solie's CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING FROM FLORIDA became one of the first wrestling shows to capitalize on the new technology by switching to tape in late 1960. Two master tapes of the show were cut every week and "bi-cycled" (tapes passed from a central distributor to one station to dub, then passed to another, and another,...) to every city in Florida with television, thus eliminating the need to produce separate shows in every town. The Florida show began a cycle of being seen one week late in non-Tampa Sunshine State cities and two weeks late in other states. This form of syndication is called "barter," in which a program is given to local stations free in exchange for a designated amount of commercial time (in wrestling's case, to plug arena shows). The remainder of the commercial spots are free for stations to sell and keep all of the money.

In time, virtually every state and regional promotion followed the same form of barter syndication. In the early 1980s, Fritz Von Erich's WORLD CLASS promotion became one of the first in the country to attempt marketing its show for what is called "straight cash." Instead of giving the show free to promoters outside of Texas, WCCW bought ads in national TV trade publications touting its additional, hand-held, close-up cameras and beefed-up production values in an effort to literally sell WORLD CLASS outright to station managers in the same fashion as King World sells WHEEL OF FORTUNE or JEOPARDY! With no commercial barter time, WCCW was pitching the virtue of its program to get dollars from stations, rather than wrestling's symbiotic traditional relationship. The World Class people enjoyed modest success in reaching new markets.

Until 1984, barter and straight cash were the traditional forms of syndication until the Master Disrupter, Vince McMahon, changed the rules of the game with a form of distribution called "compensation." This is where we'll pick up the story in Part 2 of HOW SYNDICATION WORKS.

LATE NOTES

FLAIR SIGNS NEW NWA CONTRACT;
FOUR OTHERS RE-UP, OTHERS CLOSE

ATLANTA - Five-time NWA world champion Ric Flair has signed a new contract with the Turner Broadcasting promotion, ending speculation that Flair may jump this spring to Titan Sports.

NWA senior vice president Jim Herd confirmed the deal Friday. Terms were not revealed. WWF owner Vince McMahon had been after Flair with a six-figure offer and an alleged promise of the WWF title. Flair came close to jumping twice last year during disputes with former NWA booker Dusty Rhodes.

In other contract signings, Eddie Gilbert, Kevin Sullivan, Mike Rotundo and Steve Williams all inked new pacts. Agreements have been reached with three other NWA stars but the deals are yet to be signed.

STEAMBOAT-FLAIR TO GO 2 OUT OF 3
FOR APRIL 2 REMATCH

ATLANTA - The Ricky Steamboat-Ric Flair NWA title rematch on CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS 6 April 2, 3:30-7 p.m. (ET), on TBS will be a 2-out-of-3 fall affair. An NWA world title has not changed hands in a 2-3 fall event since Jack Brisco's victory over Harley Race in 1973.

The Steamboat-Flair rematch highlights a nine-bout card, which will also include a live DANGER ZONE with Paul E. Dangerously and three championship matches.

The complete card: U.S. TITLE, Lex Luger defends vs. Jack Victory; NWA WORLD TAG TITLE, Road Warriors vs. Danny Spivey/Kevin Sullivan; Eddie Gilbert & Rick Steiner vs. Steve Williams/Mike Rotundo; Samoan Swat Team vs. Midnight Express; Abdullah the Butcher vs. Steve Casey; Iron Sheik vs. Junkyard Dog; Sting vs. Rip Morgan; Butch Reed vs. Dick Murdoch.

The New Orleans show from the Louisiana Superdome will include a one-hour Dixieland music show prior to the telecast, which challenges the WRESTLEMANIA V PPV.

(COMMENTARY: There are four fairly solid matches on this show but it's obvious the spotlight is on Steamboat-Flair to carry the whole thing. Just at first glance, I'm convinced some of these matches are designed to set up the May 7 pay show from Nashville and I have to believe, with no certain knowledge, that you'll see a couple of angles to build May 7. Biggest puzzle: other than Iron Sheik-JYD, which I'm convinced will be refrigerator time, why Sting is so far down on the card. Quite a change from last year's FLAIR-STING CABLE/PPV MATCH OF THE YEAR.)

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TV TIMPO (Week of Feb. 27-Mar. 5)

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See PILEDRIVER - Excellent
POWERSLAM - Good DRAW - Average RESTHOLD - Fair BOMB
- Poor PLUS - Midscale rating.

(FLORIDA) - Italian Stallion d. Kevin Catlin; Steve Keirn/Scott Hall/Brett Sawyer d. El Diablo/Jim Backlund/Star Rider Rock; Commandos d. Cliff Sheats & Bruno; Al Perez d. Dave Heath; Steelman-Brian Knobbs ends in no contest when Knobbs attacks Diamond Dallas Page and Steelman sledgehammers Knobbs off top rope. FEATURES: Mike Graham appears in arm cast; Steelman video; Terry Funk takes chainsaw and cuts up cardboard cutout of Dusty Rhodes. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(SCW) - Ga. Power d. Ken Timbs/Louie Louie; Chic Donovan d. Steve Bennett; Tommy Rich d. The Bullet by using trunks; Steve Lawler/Dino Minelli no contest v. Steve Prichard/Tim Burger when melee erupts; David Sammartino d. Bobby Bennett; Blue Knight d. Joel Deaton by countout when Deaton twists mask. Knight (John Michaels) removes mask, beats tar out of Deaton and runs him out. RESTHOLD.

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(CWA/WNC) - Dave Brown as new host with new color commentator Ronald P. Gossett IV (heel). Mason-Dixon Connection (John Paul/Tracy Smothers) d. Hangan & Keith Eric; Master of Pain & Dutch Mantel d. Chris Frazier/Alan Reynolds; Jeff Jarrett wins DQ over Frank Lancaster when Mantel runs in; Action Jackson d. Reynolds; Wrestling Machines (Scott Steiner/Dreamweaver) d. Medics; Shogun/Samurai/PY Chu Hi d. Brian Lee/Jed Grundy/Jungle Jim. ARENA: Dutch Mantel d. Bill Dundee and M.O.P. joins in post-match beating until Ricky Morton saves. ANGLE: Jerry Lawler brings out dunking booth for upcoming "egg match" and throws eggs at Gossett. POWERSLAM.

(CWA/SYND.) - CWA TAG TITLE: Grundy & Steiner d. Robert Fuller/Jimmy Golden for belts when Grundy hits Fuller with moonshine jug; Mantel d. Reynolds; M.O.P. d. Freezer Thompson; Shogun & Samurai d. McPherson/Frazier; Jarrett d. Alan Yates but heels bust up Jeff into a juice job with a board; Jungle Jim/Dreamweaver d. ChuHi/Eric. ANGLES: Jarrett presented jacket Kerry Von Erich wore when he won his first match, Mantel rips jacket, leading to brawl; Sylvia Fuller tries to hide behind host's desk but Grundy & Steiner catch her and rip off her dress. POWERSLAM.

(PWTW) - CWA, Lawler with unified belts; SCW, angle with Samuel Kent's army hanging Nick Busich; ACM, Scott Armstrong DQ over Nelson Royal; CMF, Masa Chono/RPM Davis win squash; AWA, aftermath of world title battle royal; INTL. MATCH, Antonio Inoki DQ over Bam Bam Bigelow; STAMPEDE, Makhan Singh wins squash. WRESTLER OF WEEK: Scott Armstrong. DRAW.

(AWA) - Mahoo McDaniel d. Dave Taylor; Wayne Bloom d. Stoney Burke; Badd Co. d. Todd Becker/Red Tyler; From K.C. ALL-JAPAN show, British Bulldogs draw v. Rock & Roll Express; Sgt. Slaughter double DQ v. Col. DeBeers. MAT CLASSIC: Nick Bockwinkel draw v. Brad Rheingans; INTERVIEW: Bill Apter v. Larry Zbyszko/Gary DeRusha. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WORLD WIDE]: Michael Hayes d. Jerry Price; Samoan Swat Team d. Rick Allen/Bob Emery; Sting d. Julio Barerra; Danny Spivey d. Joe Cruze; Fantastics d. Bob Emery/Mike Thor. CHI-TOWN: Flair-Steamboat clips. BOMB-PLUS.

[NWA PRO]: Sting d. Keith Steinborn; SST d. Dale Lapyrouse/Nasty Ned; Ivan Koloff/Hayes d. David Heath/Trent Knight; Road Warriors d. Cruze/El Negro; Eddie Gilbert/Vincent Young d. Cruel Connection. CHI-TOWN: Luger-Windham highlights. BOMB.

(NWA/TBS) - [MCW]: CHI-TOWN: Luger-Windham clips; TV TITLE, Mike Rotunda d. Emery; Sting d. The Raider; Butch Reed d. Gator Gilmore; Kevin Sullivan/Spivey d. Crash Chandler/Steve Casey; Barry Windham d. George South; Other winners: Iron Sheik, Steiner/Gilbert, SST, Midnight Express, Hayes/JYD; DANGER ZONE: Paul E. Dangerously's new segment debuts with Ric Flair as guest, saying he'll have "major statement" next week. RESTHOLD.

[MAIN EVENT]: Stan Lane d. Russian Assassin Sheldon; Dick Murdoch d. Gary Royal; Brothers Windham d. Steve Casey/Eddie Gilbert; CHI-TOWN: Flair-Steamboat clips. DRAW... mostly for Ross-Dangerously routines.

(PORTLAND) - Top Gun DQ over Al Madril; Matt Borne d. Mike Golden; Grappler d. Beetlejuice; Word the Barbarian vs. Carl Stiles double countout; Steve Doll d. C.W. Bergstrom. DRAW-PLUS.

(MCCW) - Chris Adams d. David Hinkel; J.J. Funk/Cpl. Braddock d. Super Black Ninja/Kendo Nagasaki by countout; Cactus Jack Manson d. Devayne Meaders; Jeff Jarrett/Brickhouse Brown win DQ over Beauty & the Beast when Buddy Roberts runs in but Adams saves and wild brawl erupts. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(CMF) - Wendell Cooley d. Alan Martin; Black Bart d. Brad Anderson; Bill Dundee d. Scott Sadlin; Masa Chono d. Rob Morgan and after Mike Davis joins Chono in beating Morgan, Johnny & Davey Rich save and Johnny juices; Terry Gordy wins DQ over Rip Rogers when Bart & Tom Prichard run in before The Dog saves; The Hunters d. Doug Furnas & Danny Davis when Hunter Brown trips up Davis and holds his legs as Hunter Veasey scores pin. ANGLE: Dundee & Danny Davis get into shoving match at desk. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(WEF) - [SUPERSTARS]: Demolition d. Barry Horowitz/Barry Hardy; Hart Foundation d. Tony Durante/Gary Wolfe; Brooklyn Brawler d. Mario Mancini; Brutus Beefcake d. Chris Duffy; Other winners: Rick Rude, Twin Towers. FEATURES: More Hogan/Savage interviews; Bro. Love v. Ted DiBiase, who unveils Million \$ Belt. BOMB-PLUS.

[SPOTLIGHT]: Curt Hennig wins countout over Tery Taylor; Jake Roberts d. Darryl Peterson; Greg Valentine d. Omar Atlas; Brutus Beefcake-Dino Bravo double COR; Rockers win squash; BRO. LOVE v. Demolition.

[CHALLENGE]: Rockers d. Gino Carabello & Horowitz; Powers of Pain d. Gary Starr/Nelson Velleux; John Studd wins handicap match; Other winners: Hercules Hernandez, Curt Hennig. INTERVIEW: Mean Gene v. DiBiase and belt.

(LTR) - Mark (Yannick Bisson) feels betrayed when his father (Lyle Alzado) subs in his biology class and promptly suspends Mark for bad behavior. MATCHES: Italian Stallion d. El Negro; Stan Lane d. Maniac. DRAW.

LINES OF THE WEEK - 1. Terry Funk, FCW: "What do you get when you breed a 300-lb. tub of lard with a thick-tongued slob of a barmaid? You get a little Dustin." 2. Robert Fuller, CWA: "My toughest match was when I was lying in bed dreaming of wrestling myself." 3. Dangerously, NME: "I heard Randy Rose & Tom Landry are gonna open their own football stadium. It'll be called UNEMPLOYMENT, INC. (Ha ha ha ha)." 4. Paul E., NME: "For a guy who hung around Barry Switzer, you sure shouldn't be throwing stones at a glass house." 5. Ross & Paul E., NME: JR, "Are you with the NCAA now?" PED, "I'm with the NCAA, the NBA, the NFL..." JR, "...the NAACP, the AFL-CIO." 6. Brother Love, WWF,

"BEE-hold, BEE-hold, The Million Dollar Belt!" 7. Larry Zbyszko, AWA: "I think the ESPN Sports Center guys got confused with Vince McMahon Jr., who came out and admitted Hulk Hogan is a clown."

8. Jerry Lawler, CWA, to Gossett: "When you get in an elevator, it's gotta be going down." 9. Lawler, to Gossett: "A guy as fat as you must get mail from Noby Dick." 10. Jesse Ventura, WWF: "I like The Anvil's beard. It's great grooming. You should have a beard like that, McMahon." 11. Marc Lowrance, WCCW: "I wish I had some breath mints for Buddy (Roberts)." 12. Ross, NME: "The Windhams are not treating Casey any better than the Cowboys have treated Tom Landry." 13. Ross, on Paul E.'s new suit: "You're spending money right and left. But you're obviously not spending money on Randy Rose, or his kid who may be missing his lunch money at school." 14. Jim Cornette, TBS: "Paul E. hasn't got \$3 to buy a ticket in a massage parlor, much less time on TBS." 15. Cornette, TBS: "That set (DANGER ZONE) looked like graffiti on a New York subway." 16. Paul E., TBS: "Jim Cornette's walking around like Bobby McFerrin---DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY--- but with the SST, it's not BE HAPPY...WORRY!" 17. Ken Patera, AWA: "Badd Company, you're looking at Bad News."

18. Ross, TBS: "Don't know where The Raider's from. Can't be from Oakland...they moved to L.A." 19. Cornette, TBS: "Paul E., you've got more enemies than Morton Downey Jr. has teeth." 20. Ventura, WWF: "The Rockers will be like flies buzzing around two big grizzly bears (Twin Towers)." 21. Bobby Heenan, WWF: "Hogan was in love with Elizabeth the first time he saw her. He hadn't had a date in 12 years." 22. Gossett IV, CWA, on WMC fans: "I thought cheese and butter day for the welfare crowd was Tuesday."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Kerry Von Erich, WCCW: "I'm the leader of a generation---a generation involved in drugs..." 2. Zbyszko, AWA: "I wonder if Teddy Turner's got the guts to put up the TBS champion against the ESPN heavyweight champion...me!" 3. Sting, NWA: "The NWA is where the REAL rasslin' goes on." 4. Ross, NME, in answer to Paul E. wanting to go on the DAVID LETTERMAN show, "You have a lot in common with Paul Shafer. He's a little....of course, you're not like that."

EXAGGERATION OF THE WEEK - Kevin Sullivan, NWA: "Danny Spivey is the most famous man ever to come out of the University of Georgia." Anybody ever heard of Herschel Walker or Fran Tarkenton?

QUESTION OF THE WEEK - Paul E., DANGER ZONE, to Flair: "Are you gonna cut your daily guarantee from 50 grand to 25 to wrestle on TV?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. FCW, for calling Dustin Rhodes "The Natural." 2. Ross, NME, for calling Paul E.'s CHI-TOWN pink togs "The Baby Shower Outfit." 3. Diamond D. Page, AWA, for calling Sgt. Slaughter "America's Zero." 4. Ross, TBS, for calling Teddy Long "The EBDNY Magazine Wrestling Man of the Year." 5. Jim

Herd, NWA, for dubbing yours truly "Master of the Jumpcut."

BEST PICTURES - 1. CNF, shot of Dundee arguing with long-time Montgomery fan, "Spider Lady." 2. WWW, shot of Samu suplexing Rick Allen on floor. 3. FCW, for Funk cutting up Dusty cutout with chainsaw.

BLOOPER AWARDS - 1. Alan Starr, SCW, for calling The Nightmare "The Bullet" 4 times and for calling Ken Timbs "Timothy Flowers." 2. Magnum T.A., TBS, for calling jobber Crash Chandler "Crash Craddock." 3. Jimmy Golden, WCCW, for calling Jeff Jarrett "Jeff Eric." 4. TBS, for spelling Cougar Jay's name COUGER. 5. CNF, for graphic of Rogers as HUSTLER RICK ROGERS.

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Frank Dusek, WCCW, "all she wrote." 2. Starr, SCW, "...only time will tell." 3. Magnum, TBS: "...crying over spilled milk."

BOD AWARD - SCW, for announce team. I know it was only Starr's second week but he and color man Jimmy Powell would have made Flair-Steamboat as boring as a lecture on raising pole beans.

CLASS ACT AWARD - Dave Brown, CWA/WNC, for wishing Lance Russell well and saying, "Not only are we losing a great commentator but I'm going to miss a real good friend."

TUBE TALK

Except for DANGER ZONE, Cornette's interview and the Ross-Paul E. schtick on NME, the TBS and NWA syndie shows were real snoozers.... Now that the sweeps are over, the WWF shows were back to their old routine and except for Bruce Prichard's crazy-rass, the Million \$ Belt thing wasn't so hot.... There is no way I can describe how bad the SCW announce team is. Picture yourself thinking David Crockett & Nick Patrick would be an award-winning combo and you may get it.... Lance probably won't appear on WWW for 2 more weeks because Saturday was only the first of 3 shows taped in Gainesville GA before Lance arrived.

It may be desperation but Zbyszko fired a hot interview Friday night and even lumped the NWA in as "the only other group left that still wrestles"... AWA show this week airs on ESPN Sunday morning at 11 a.m. (Saturday night at 10 on the West Coast).

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FINAL ISSUE NEXT WEEK